



# A.A.A.E.Y.C. Fall 2011 NEWSLETTER

Express your voice, Engage in a professional community, Influence the future of Early Childhood

## President's Message

Hello everyone,

Your AAAEYC board is working very hard to meet your professional needs. This newsletter is just one way the board is working to support you. I want to extend my thanks to Carrie Burrier for creating the newsletter as well as maintaining our website. If you haven't had a chance to check it out, I encourage you to do that. All of our board meetings dates, times and locations along with training dates, times and locations are listed on the website. Our board minute notes will be posted there too starting in September. We like to focus on early childhood awards and events that are happening in our community. If you have received an award or have an event happening in your program, please let us know. We would like to post an article about the award or event!

Have a great idea that other early childhood professionals would like to know about? Let us know! You might be awarded our Good Idea Grant. Ever want to go to the OAEYC conference and didn't have the funds? Check out the website for the requirements and application forms for the Good Idea Grant and OAEYC Conference Grant. This is a good opportunity for you to try your hand at grant writing. The application process is not difficult and AAAEYC board members will be glad to help you if you need help.

I am excited about the professional development opportunities that will be offered this year. The board read the responses from the membership survey posted in April. We are offering first aid and communicable disease updates on Saturday, September 17th this year to meet the needs of our members. In one Saturday, you can get two updates!!

We are having Directors' round table meetings this coming year, too. Kaplan and Lakeshore will be hosting the breakfast meetings and promise to have some fun surprises for that. All of the Directors' meetings will be at Child Care Connection, who offered to host the meetings. This will be a great opportunity for directors to network with other directors as well as attend presentations pertinent to their jobs. We are hoping to expand this program next year.

We are having two different training sessions with the Metro Parks this coming year. The first one will be on October 1<sup>st</sup> and will feature Ohio Wildlife including activities that support the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards. Megan Doran from the Metro Parks, Laura McFalls from the Akron-Summit County Public Library, and Jamey Graham from the Ohio Division of Wildlife will be the presenters. There will be resources for providers again this year. Remember to reserve your spot early. Last year, this training filled up quickly.

Check out the other upcoming AAAEYC events in our training flyer or on our website. Keep checking the AAAEYC website for the most current news on professional development opportunities, early childhood issues and news from the field. I hope to see you soon at one of our events!

Sincerely,

Pam Oviatt

AAAEYC President



## Eliminating Transitions

There are forty kinds of lunacy, but only one kind of common sense.

-West African proverb

In their Exchange article, "Eliminating Transitions<<http://mail.ccie.com/go/eed/6392>>," which forms the basis for the newest Out of the Box Training Kit, Barb Gallick and Lisa Lee make a case for keeping to a minimum the number of transitions children confront in early childhood classrooms:

"Picture a group of children in the block area who have spent 15 or 20 minutes building an elaborate car wash. They have just gotten to the point where they will be using cars to develop a story and act it out when the teacher says it's time to clean up for snack. Of course, after snack there's group time and then the class will be heading outside. Are these children also wishing that they could have had an extended time to relax and focus on enjoying their car wash and the dramatic play possibilities? Do they also feel like they have no control over their schedule?"

"Having a daily schedule that creates routines for young children is an essential part of an early childhood classroom. Evaluating the daily schedule on a regular basis is an integral part of creating a quality program that meets the needs of both the children and adults who 'live' in the classroom each day. We would suggest that you look (with a critical eye) at your daily schedule once a year to determine whether it works for the group of children currently enrolled in your classroom.

## A.A.A.E.Y.C.

Fall Issue

August 2011

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One of the most important things to consider when reviewing your schedule is the number of transitions that occur throughout the day.

"Transitions tend to be some of the most difficult and stressful moments in an early childhood classroom. At these times teachers often find themselves dealing with more challenging behavior and feeling more like police officers than nurturing caregivers. If you are feeling uncomfortable or frustrated during transition times, that is a sign that your current schedule may need to be revised to better meet the needs and developmental levels of the children in your care."

## Good Idea Grant Recipient

In December I was honored to receive the “Good Idea Grant” and I am so pleased to summarize the progress of my project. My idea for a ‘Bird in the Hand’ project came to be as a result of a SUTQ training at Seiberling Naturealm. While enjoying a nature walk, I observed a group of children and adults handfeeding chickadees. The children were highly engaged, obviously delighted, and very focused on their interactions. This became the catalyst to create a bird-friendly interactive environment within our playground at the Nurtury in Medina. Some of the steps that we have taken include:



1. Installed a birding station which includes 3 birdfeeders and small bird bath. In a semi-circle around the birding station are large stepping tree stumps that we purchased and placed for children’s observations. We are frequently greeted by birdsongs as our children approach our birdfeeders, and birds quickly fly in to eat – delighting our children who help on a daily basis! While we have not successfully handfed chickadees yet, we are working toward that goal!
2. Installed bird houses which have been adopted by birds and a nester which birds use the materials inside to make their nests. Also we have materials for children to weave through our fence that birds take to use for nesting.
3. Hummingbird feeders and window feeders are placed on classroom windows. A cardinal family is regularly visiting my classroom, and they seem to be content to see many young eager faces gazing their way.



Lynne Ehrman  
Grant winner, The Nurtury

### **Directors Roundtable**

Back by popular demand, an opportunity to network with other directors and talk about issues shared by all...[Check out the website for details](#)

Did you know that for each Roundtable session you attend (up to 4) you get your name entered into a drawing for a free membership?

### **AEP Sponsors Adventures in Science Beyond Ohio**

Young children are natural scientists with lots of questions. Why does it rain? How do seeds grow? Why should we eat green vegetables? What bug is this? While parents & teachers don’t have to have all the answers– it is important to encourage young children’s natural curiosity and early learning potential.

To help with these questions, Action for Children developed Learning Begins Right From the Start® *Adventures in Science* in 2009 with funding and technical support provided by AEP. “AEP has a tradition of working with educators and students on topics such as electrical safety, energy and the environment. But in the early part of this decade, we saw a growing body of research evidence that suggested we could do more. The evidence clearly showed that what happens in a child’s earliest years has a huge and undeniable impact on that child’s success in school. We are pleased to have partnered with Action for Children to help create kits that will enable parents and other adults to help children explore the world around them and expand their learning possibilities,” said AEP’s CFO Carl English.

*Adventures in Science* is a resource kit and guidebook for families/teachers of children from birth through five, developed to introduce young children to the wonders of science by tapping into their natural curiosity. Packed in a canvas backpack, the resource kit contains science-oriented books and materials (flashlight, wand magnet, puzzle, measuring cups, bug jar, etc.) to use in guiding children’s learning. The guidebook contains more than 100 activities divided into two sections: “Learning with Infants and Toddlers” and “Learning with 3- to 5-Year Olds.” The kits are based on Early Learning Content Standards for Science in the areas of Life Sciences; Physical Sciences; and Earth and Space Sciences. These kits are now available for teachers for a nominal fee of \$40 plus shipping. They come with many resources to enhance your classroom. To learn more about Learning Begins Right From the Start® Early Learning Kits, which also include math and literacy kits, please call 614-224-0222, ext. 162.

\*AEP provides power to families in central Ohio, Ohio’s Northern and Appalachian counties, and six counties in the southwestern area of West Virginia.

## Promoting a Healthy Start

Kids are constantly moving on their own, which would lead one to believe that they are getting enough exercise. However, children need both unstructured and structured physical activity to maintain a healthy weight. Due to the current trend of physical inactivity and poor nutrition, childhood obesity is becoming a major public health crisis. Body fat in preschoolers has doubled in the past 20 years. Doctors from all over the world agree that the best way to prevent health problems is to start building healthy lifestyles in children as early as possible.



Luckily, there are many resources available for preschools and child care centers to help make a difference and work toward reversing this trend. The newest online resource recently introduced by Michelle Obama is 'Let's Move Child Care'. This website provides child care centers with free tools to help become a healthier center. The 5 main goals of the effort are to encourage standards for physical activity, screen time, meal times, beverage choices, and infant feeding. For more details see [www.healthykidshealthyfuture.org](http://www.healthykidshealthyfuture.org).

We, at KID-FIT, would like to suggest some simple ways to give preschoolers more daily exercise. Here are 6 great tips from the KID-FIT Physical Education for Preschoolers program:

- Morning walk through school or grounds
- 10 minute action play breaks every hour
- Gross motor skill practice mid morning
- Simple group relay games immediately before lunch
- After nap wakeup play on the playground
- Introduce different play games and have a different child pick their favorite each day as a late afternoon treat.

If you are interested in more ideas about increasing physical activity with young children, please join us for the **Building Healthy Kids Conference on Saturday, November 5**. Designed for child care center staff, this conference will provide a variety of educational topics on physical activity, nutrition and overall health for children. We would love to see you there and see all centers meeting and exceeding standards for the best healthy environment.

By Char Graham, Owner - Happy Healthy Kids, Instructor - KID-FIT

## **LOT OF EXCITING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2011—2012**

### September 24, 2011

#### **Super Saturday of Health & Safety Updates**

First Aid(9:30am-12:30pm) & Communicable Disease (1pm-4pm)

Summa Early Care & Education Center

\$10 per session for members, \$15 per session for non-members

**Service Project: School supply item**

### October 1, 2011

#### **The Outdoor Classroom**

9:30am-12pm, Seiberling Nature Realm

Pam Oviatt, Laura McFalls, Meghan Doren, Jamie Graham

\$10 for non-members, FREE for members

**Service Project: Children's Book**

### November 10, 2011

#### **Peace, love & happiness: empowering children to create their own peaceful environment.**

Join Conference scholarship winner Barbara Simmons as she shares some concepts and techniques she at he conference.

Discover how to give children the skills needed to resolve conflicts; handle everyday situations and create a peaceful environment. You won't believe how easy it is and how much easier your job will be. Leave your discipline strategies at the door and learn how to empower the children in your classroom

6:30pm-9pm, Jewish Community Center

Barb Simmons & Cindy Usner

\$10 for non-members, FREE for members

**Service Project: Canned good**

### December 1, 2011

#### **Illusion factory presents: Creative Drama in the Classroom**

7pm-9pm, Guys Party Center

\$13 for members, \$15 for non-members

Good Idea Grant Awarded

**Service Project: Gloves & hats**

### December 10, 2011

#### **Super Saturday Health & Safety Updates**

Child Abuse (9:30am-12:30pm) First Aid (1pm-4pm)

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\$10 per session for members, \$15 per session for non-members

**Service Project: Gloves & Hats**

### February 25, 2012

9-11:30 **The Power of Technology in Early Childhood &**

12:30pm-3pm **Digital Storytelling & Storybook Making**

Jeremy Brueck, co-director of Akron Ready Step, Pam Oviatt ,Literacy Coach, With support from Lakeshore and Kaplan Fairlawn Village Preschool. Lunch on your own.

Hands-on experience using IPADS, IPODS, Smart boards and more!

**Service Project: Socks**

**Cost: Non-Member: \$15 per session or \$25 for both**

**Member: \$10 per session or \$15 for both**

**[For more check out the web page](#)**

## **A.A.A.E.Y.C**

### **Board Members**

#### **President**

Pam Oviatt  
poviatt2@aol.com

#### **First Vice President**

Kimberly Harris  
kharris@childcare-connection.org

#### **Second Vice President**

Karla McDivitt  
karla.mcdivitt@fairlawnlutheran.org

#### **Secretary**

#### **Treasurer**

Beth Cardina  
bcardina@aol.com

### **Our Vision**

A.A.A.E.Y.C. Strives to lead and consolidate the efforts of individuals and groups working to achieve healthy development and constructive education for all young children.

### **Our Mission**

A.A.A.E.Y.C.'s mission is to serve and act on behalf of the needs, rights and well-being of all young children and their families in Summit Portage and Medina counties of Ohio with special emphasis on the developmental and educational services and resources; and to foster the growth and development of the membership in their work with an don behalf of young children.

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